APRA AMCOS: 23% mentorship program

14 songwriters and screen composers will take part in a mentor program for emerging music creators.

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APRA AMCOS has announced the 14 songwriter and composer members who will take part in this year's 23% mentorship program for women and gender diverse music creators.

This year's mentees are Alice Hurwood, Ange Nishimwe (Ange-Bella), Athanasia Sakoutis (Athanasia), Ayda Akbal, Doolie Shadforth (Doolie), Georgia Slater (Solly Fern), Kyah Parrott (Hayku Kyah), Layla George (Jean Elliot), Lucie O'Connor (Lucie Tiger), Naomi Geste, Nicole Issa, Roz Yuen, Sasha Gavlek and Siobhan McGinnity (Magnets).

Each mentee is paired with a mentor specially selected to align with career stage, goals and priorities for a three-month period. This year's mentors include some of the industry's leading figures based in Australia, the UK and the US including Bumpy, KLP, Mo'Ju, Milan Ring, Nat Dunn and Tammy Ari. Each successful applicant also receives $3,000 towards projects or work-related expenses and/or travel.

Screen composer, Ayda Akbal, who will be working with LA-based composer Tammy Ari, adds: "Tammy Ari is not only an extraordinary composer, but also a fellow Melburnian who has been living and working in Los Angeles for many years. She's trodden a path that I would be proud to follow, which makes our one-on-one mentorship particularly meaningful, especially since we are able to meet in person in a city that's new to me, just as it once was for her."

23% is a reference to the percentage of APRA AMCOS members who identify as women or gender diverse. It's part of a suite of commitments from the organisation aimed at addressing gender disparity in music through impactful programs, funding and advocacy, including a 40/40/20 commitment to a minimum of 40% representation of women across all programs and judging panels.

Karen Don, Head of Membership at APRA AMCOS, concludes: "Congratulations to all of this year's mentees! We know that getting into and sustaining a career in the music industry can be tough at the best of times, but for women and gender diverse songwriters and composers it can be even more challenging. Programs like 23% are hopefully one small step in the right direction to support and achieve gender parity in our industry."

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